

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method of allocating a trace array from a cache memory, comprising:
2 dividing said cache memory into a reduced-size cache memory and a trace array;
3 permitting storage of trace signal data into said trace array; and
4 permitting retrieval of said trace signal data from said trace array.

1 2. A method as defined in Claim 1 wherein said reduced-size cache memory
2 is equal in size to said trace array.

1 3. A method as defined in Claim 1 wherein said reduced-size cache memory
2 is not equal in size to said trace array.

1 4. A method as defined in Claim 1 wherein said cache memory is 512K bytes
2 in size.

1 5. A method as defined in Claim 1 wherein at least one of said cache
2 memory and said reduced-size cache memory is organized in eight-way associativities.

1 6. A method as defined in Claim 1 wherein said cache memory comprises a
2 directory array.

3 7. A method as defined in Claim 6 wherein said directory array comprises an
4 address field having a spare bit usable in a trace mode to represent a high order bit of a
5 requested address.

1 8. A method as defined in Claim 1, further comprising:
2 detecting a trace mode.

1 9. A method as defined in Claim 1 wherein said cache memory is comprised
2 by a system-on-chip environment.

3 10. A method as defined in Claim 1 wherein the combination of said
4 reduced-size cache memory and said trace array comprises a split cache spanning the
5 addressable space of said cache memory.

1 11. A method as defined in Claim 1 wherein the permitted retrieval of said
2 trace signal data from said trace array is configured as a broadside output from said trace
3 array.

1 12. A method as defined in Claim 1 wherein the permitted retrieval of said
2 trace signal data from said trace array is configured as a compartmentally selected output
3 from said trace array.

1 13. A method as defined in Claim 1 wherein said reduced-size cache memory
2 and said trace array are each associated with a separate output bus.

1 14. A method as defined in Claim 1, further comprising:
2 characterizing a self-timed interconnect using said trace array; and
3 switching back to the original cache functionality once characterization is
4 complete.

1 15. A method as defined in Claim 14, further comprising:
2 at least one of multiplexing and time-sharing said self-timed interconnect signals
3 with other signals to be stored in said trace array.

1 16. A storage medium encoded with a machine-readable computer program
2 code for allocating a trace array from an original cache memory, said storage medium
3 including instructions for causing a computer to implement a method comprising:
4 dividing the cache memory into a reduced-size cache memory and a trace array;
5 permitting storage of trace signal data into said trace array; and
6 permitting retrieval of said trace signal data from said trace array.

1 17. A computer data signal for allocating a trace array from an original cache
2 memory, said computer data signal comprising code configured to cause a computer to
3 implement a method comprising:

4 dividing the cache memory into a reduced-size cache memory and a trace array;
5 permitting storage of trace signal data into said trace array; and
6 permitting retrieval of said trace signal data from said trace array.

1 18. A cache memory comprising:
2 means for dividing said cache memory into a reduced-size cache memory and a
3 trace array;
4 means for permitting storage of trace signal data into said trace array; and
5 means for permitting retrieval of said trace signal data from said trace array.